

City of Oxford.



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

1908.

Oxford:

PRINTED AT THE HOLYWELL PRESS,

1909.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS.

Area in statute acres, 4,719.

Population estimated to the middle of 1908 = 51,946.

Total births = 1,186. Boys, 585. Girls, 601.

Birth-rate per 1,000 = 22·83. Percentage of illegitimate Births = 4·55.

Total Deaths = 674; rate per 1,000 = 12·97.

Death-rate from the seven chief Zymotic Diseases = 0·750.

Deaths under one year, rate per 1,000 Births = 94·4.

Percentage of Deaths not medically certified = 0·44.

Death and Birth-rates in England and Wales, &c. Oxford is placed among the 142 towns :—

	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Zymotic Death Rate.	Infants under one year; rate per 1,000 Births.
England and Wales	26·5	14·7	1·29	121·0
76 Towns - -	27·0	14·9	1·59	128·0
142 Towns - -	26·0	14·0	1·26	124·0
Oxford - -	22·8	12·9	0·75	94·4

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

*Medical Officer's Department,
Town Hall, Oxford.*

To the Members of the City Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you a report of the sanitary condition of the district during the year 1908.

The vital statistics for 1908 will be found on the opposite page. 1907 was a record year, and although the figures for last year are not quite so good, they may still be regarded as distinctly satisfactory. In the case of the Death-rate, it must be remembered that the age and sex distribution in Oxford is slightly more favourable to life than that of England and Wales as a whole, and, for the sake of comparison, the figure must be multiplied by 1·026. Similarly in Table IV it must be noted that the Birth and Death-rates have been calculated on the census figures of 1901 and are therefore too high in the case of growing parishes such as Cowley St. John, St. Aldate's, St. Giles' and St. Thomas', and too low for the central parishes such as St. Ebbe's, St. Mary Magdalen, &c., where the population is actually decreasing.

The Birth-rate shows a most satisfactory increase, being nearly one above the average for the last 10 years, while the Infant Mortality rate is again below 100 for the third year in succession. The question is fully discussed under the heading Infant Mortality.

There have been no sweeping reforms in general sanitation, but steady progress has been made. All the houses in Dover's Row were empty early in December, and the whole row closed. It is to be hoped that by the end of the present year new houses will have been built or the old ones put in a state of thorough repair, as there is a great need in Oxford for small and sanitary houses at a low rental. The process has been a very tedious one, occupying $4\frac{1}{2}$ years; in June, 1903, 8 houses were closed by order of the Magistrates as being unfit for human habitation, a similar order was made for 1 in the following August, 4 in March, 1906, 9 in August, 1 in September, and 2 in December, 1908. The 3 remaining houses were closed voluntarily by the owners in January, 1906, July and August, 1908, respectively. In six instances it was necessary to obtain ejectment orders before the occupiers would leave their houses, although the continued occupation was attended with grave risks to their own health. Extensive improvements are now being carried on in Upper Fisher Row, and although one regrets the demolition of picturesque cottages, it must be remembered that these premises could only be rendered fit for human habitation by the expenditure in repairs and maintenance of a sum quite out of proportion to the yearly rentals. The general improvement in the cleanliness of the yards and courts has been maintained—the approaches have in the majority of cases been limewashed by the owners, and the provision of sanitary dust-bins has done much to promote general cleanliness.

The By-laws for Houses Let in Lodgings have been applied in several fresh instances, and the work in this direction, though difficult, may be regarded as encouraging.

The promised By-laws for Common Lodging Houses are still a thing of the future, but Part V of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, the adoption of which is now under consideration, will afford considerable help in dealing with these places. The adoption of Parts III and IV of

this Act is also much needed, as it will, among other things, tend to safeguard the City in the vital question of Milk Supply.

In 1907 the City suffered, happily to a slight extent, from a Diphtheria outbreak due to infected milk, and twice last year it seemed not improbable that certain cases of Diphtheria were to be attributed to infected milk, although no definite evidence was forthcoming, while towards the end of the year the possibility of an outbreak of Enteric Fever from a similar cause gave me much anxiety. Everybody can render themselves perfectly safe by using only Pasteurized or sterilized milk, but at present there seems no likelihood of such a course being universally adopted. The Local Authority has power under the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Order to make regulations for securing the cleanliness of milk stores, milkshops and milk vessels, and for prescribing precautions to be taken by purveyors and persons selling milk against contamination by infection, and I would strongly urge that such regulations should be made. I would draw your attention to one other point: medical science has taught us how important a part rats and flies may play in the dissemination of infectious diseases, and crusades are now being made in various parts of the country against these pests.

Much has been done to reduce the danger by frequent removal of house refuse, and keeping the yards and courts free from decaying matter which would serve as a breeding place for flies, but while the custom of tilting house refuse on low-lying grounds in the district has the advantage of being cheap in operation and increasing the value of the land, it is much to be deplored that the practise of firing the refuse has been put a stop to, as the process of natural decay is a slow one, and the tilts now provide an ideal breeding ground for rats and flies.

Objections have been made to the smoke caused by the burning, but the nuisance was not injurious to health and

rendered the method of disposal as safe, and infinitely cheaper than a destructor.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There was a considerable increase in the number of deaths from the 'seven chief zymotic diseases,' 17 and 14 deaths from Diarrhœa and Whooping Cough respectively being registered as against 6 and 0 in 1907. Against this must be set the fact that no fatal cases of measles or enteric fever occurred.

The actual figures since 1874 will be found in Table X. 207 cases of notifiable diseases were reported as against 167 in 1907, the increase being due to a slight recrudescence of Scarlet Fever.

It will be seen from Table VII that the City was entirely free from Small Pox.

Of the 119 cases of Scarlet Fever, only 1 or 0·84 per cent. terminated fatally, the other case in the tables being that of a person who died of kidney disease originating from an attack of Scarlet Fever ten years previously. Over 86 per cent. of the cases were treated at the City Hospital.

The parishes chiefly affected were Cowley St. John (19), St. Aldate's (19), St. Giles (44) and St. Thomas (22). See Table IX.

There was no definite outbreak in Cowley St. John, and many of the cases were of a very indefinite character, while the trouble in the other parishes was mainly due to small school outbreaks. A large number of the cases were of an exceedingly mild character, and the real nature of the disease was in many cases at first overlooked, with the result that several members of the household were infected.

There was a slight decrease in the number of cases of Diphtheria, but unfortunately 6, or over 10 per cent., terminated fatally. In three instances a positive diagnosis was not made until after death; the other three were of a highly malignant type, two being members of the same household.

In the earlier part of the year there was an outbreak in an institution in St. Thomas. In July and August there was trouble in connection with a school in St. Giles, and in November the disease reappeared in a somewhat virulent form in the neighbourhood of Juxon Street, originating in some overlooked cases. During the year two milk supplies came under suspicion, but the number of cases involved was very small, and most careful investigation failed to discover any possible source of contamination of the milk.

Only six cases of Enteric Fever were notified, none of which terminated fatally. The number is small, but the disease is one to be dreaded. In January a case was reported from a yard in St. Thomas where the water supply was from a pump. The water had previously been analysed and passed as satisfactory, but it was re-examined and found to be contaminated, probably as a result of heavy rains. A supply of City water was laid on and no further cases arose. In February a case was reported from Cowley St. John; no sanitary defects could be found, and the only history likely to throw any light upon the case was that the patient had eaten water-cress from an unknown source. A second case from St. Thomas was reported in October—the sanitary conditions were satisfactory, but no likely source of infection could be discovered. The patient had only been a few weeks in Oxford, and possibly contracted the disease away. At the end of the year, three cases were reported. One had contracted the infection nursing her mother in a neighbouring village; one went to a village near Oxford, where there had been several cases of Enteric Fever, and brought milk into the City; and the third obtained milk from the dairy which employed the patient just mentioned. This patient had been out of Oxford and may have contracted the infection when away. No other cases have been reported since, and there was no evidence whatever that the milk was responsible, but every precaution was taken to remove all possible risk from this source.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The weekly school returns afford most valuable information as to the prevalence and distribution of the minor infectious diseases, and Mr. Wake has kindly supplied me with the actual figures for 1908.

In the case of notifiable diseases, such as Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria, certificates are issued by the Sanitary Department to all contacts and patients before they are allowed to return to school, and a list is given in the table.

Schools.	Boys.		Girls.		Infants.			Tot.
	Sc. F.	Diph.	Sc. F.	Diph.	Sc. F.	Diph.	Typd.	
Central . . .	2	..	8	2	..	..	..	12
Cowley St. John . .	..	..	..	..	6	1	..	7
East Oxford . . .	2	..	2	..	1	..	..	5
Holywell . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Holy Trinity . . .	..	..	4	..	5	..	..	9
New Hinksey . . .	1	1	1	1	4	1	..	9
St. Aldate's . . .	2	..	2	..	2	2	..	8
St. Aloysius . . .	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	2
St. Barnabas . . .	2	1	3	2	5	2	..	15
St. Clements . . .	2	..	7	1	6	4	..	20
St. Ebbe's . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
St. Frideswide . .	3	2	..	..	3	..	..	8
St. Giles . . . . .	..	..	5	3	6	3	..	17
SS. Mary and John .	..	..	..	4	2	..	..	6
St. Mary Magdalen .	1	..	..	..	3	..	..	4
St. Paul	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
St. Peter-in-East .	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
St. Peter-le-Bailey .	1	..	1	..	3	1	..	6
SS. Philip and James	4	1	..	1	6	1	..	13
St. Thomas	4	..	5	2	2	7	2	22
Summertown	4	..	6	..	4	..	..	14
Wesleyan . . . . .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Convent . . . . .	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
	31	5	46	16	60	22	2	182

The total number of actual cases among children attending the Elementary Schools during 1908 was : Scarlet Fever 64 and Diphtheria 19.

Arranging the schools in groups, the incidence of Scarlet Fever was 1.75 per cent. in St. Barnabas and North Oxford, 1.60 in Summertown, 1.32 in South Oxford, and 1.04 in West Oxford, while in the Friars the figure was only 0.22 per cent. The figures for Diphtheria were lower, the highest being 0.45 and 0.44 per cent. respectively in St. Barnabas and North Oxford, and West Oxford, while no cases occurred in the Friars or Summertown.

MEASLES.

Very few cases were reported during the year—there were a few in the Infant department of the East Oxford Council School in the early months, and a few in the same district at the end of the year.

CHICKEN POX.

In the first half of the year the cases were practically limited to the Infant Departments of East Oxford Council, SS. Mary and John, and SS. Philip and James' Schools, while in the latter half the schools chiefly affected were St. Peter-le-Bailey and St. Thomas' Infant Department.

MUMPS.

In the early months over 60 cases were reported from East Oxford Council Infants, and several other schools in the district were affected to a small extent. The disease was very prevalent during the latter half of the year, and was so bad at St. Frideswide's that it was necessary to close the Infant Department in November. The Boys' and Girls' Departments were also seriously affected.

In the case of young children the disease is an exceedingly mild one, complications being very rare.

WHOOPIING COUGH.

Whooping cough is a very serious disease in the case of young children, and is very difficult to deal with, as in the early and highly infective stage the symptoms are easily mistaken for an ordinary cough.

During the three last weeks of January the attendance was very bad owing to 'colds' in many schools, and many cases of whooping cough were reported in February. A large number of schools were affected to a greater or less extent, St. Thomas' Infants suffering most severely.

RINGWORM.

33 out of the 53 departments reported one or more cases during the year, but the total number of cases was not so large as in 1907.

TUBERCULOSIS.

On January 1st, 1908, regulations came into force requiring the notification of poor persons suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, by the Poor Law Officials.

The difficulties in dealing with this disease among the poor and uneducated are very great, especially as no enactment may be put into force, 'which renders the poor person or a person in charge of the poor person, or any other person, liable to a penalty, or subjects the person to any restrictions, prohibitions or disability affecting himself or his employment, occupation, means of livelihood or residence, on the ground of his suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis.'

Education of the early cases and isolation of those in the last stages are the most practicable lines on which to work, but dealing with the problem will entail a heavy expenditure of time and money, and the question calls for most careful consideration.

BACTERIOLOGICAL WORK.

The following table gives a summary of specimens examined during the year :—

	1st. Qr.	2nd Qr.	3rd. Qr.	4th Qr.	Total.
For Enteric Fever ..	2	..	..	1	3
For Pulmonary Tuberculosis	4	2	3	3	12
For Diphtheria—					
A—Cases in Hospital	29	35	14	22	100
B—Cases in the town	54	87	26	55	222
Total	89	124	43	81	337

Cases in which no Diphtheria Bacilli are found are not, as a rule, further investigated, but it is highly desirable that the milk supply should be known, as many outbreaks of sore throat have been reported, apart from Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever, due to bad milk, and it is very important that no time should be wasted in dealing with this trouble. Forms are now being issued with the outfits, on which the medical attendant is asked to fill in the milk supply in addition to other particulars.

CORPORATION HOSPITALS.

Fever Hospital.

	1908.	Sc. F.	Diph.	Other.	Total.
Admitted	- -	104	37	1	142
Discharged	- -	94	37	1	132
Died	- -	—	1	—	1
Fatality per cent.	- -	—	2·7	—	—
In Hospital, Jan. 1st	-	6	3	—	9
„ „ Dec. 31st	-	16	2	—	18

The following table shows the number of cases admitted each month :—

Month.	Admitted.			Daily Number in Hospital.			Days spent in Hospital.
	Sc. F.	Diph.	Other	Maximum.	Minimum.	Average.	
January - -	10	6		19	8	13'0	403
February - -	14	1	1*	17	13	14'31	415
March - -	6	1		17	14	15'74	488
April - -	5	4		14	9	11'33	340
May - -	7	6		17	11	12'9	400
June - -	12	4		15	11	12'87	386
July - -	14	3		21	17	18'45	572
August - -	2	1		17	4	11'03	342
September -	9	..		9	2	4'6	138
October - -	5	3		11	7	9'55	296
November -	5	6		16	10	12'57	377
December -	15	2		18	8	11'10	346
Total -	104	37	1	..	..	..	..

* Suspicious case of Diphtheria. 1 case of Scarlet Fever and 1 case of Diphtheria admitted from outside district.

The total number of days spent in hospital was 4503, against 2872 in 1907 and 12124 in the preceding year. The hospital was not full at any time as Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria were never very prevalent.

The average stay in the hospital was 30·8 days, against 29·6 in 1907.

Small Pox Hospital.

The hospital was kept ready for the reception of patients, but fortunately there was no occasion to use it.

WATER SUPPLY.

The water supplied to the District from the City Waterworks has been satisfactory throughout the year. The following figures have been taken from the monthly reports

of the Public Analyst to show the quality of the water at different seasons of the year. The figures indicate quantities as grains per gallon :—

MONTH.		Total Dissolved Solid Matter.	Chlorine in Chlorides.	Ammonia, free and Saline.	Ammonia, Albuminoid.	Nitrogen in Nitrates.	Nitrogen in Nitrites.	Oxygen required to Oxidise Or- ganic Matter in 3 hours.
January	-	26·32	1·2	·001	·005	·05	0	·028
February	-	23·24	1·1	·001	·006	·154	0	·040
March	-	24·08	1·1	·001	·005	·154	0	·031
April	-	20·44	1·1	·001	·005	·112	0	·026
May	-	21·0	1·2	·003	·006	·154	0	·023
June	-	19·6	1·1	·003	·006	·147	0	·029
July	-	19·12	1·1	·003	·006	·084	0	·037
August	-	19·32	1·2	·001	·006	0	0	·025
September	-	20·72	1·4	·001	·006	·07	0	·032
October	-	21·28	1·3	·003	·006	·084	0	·033
November	-	22·68	1·4	·003	·006	·125	0	·029
December	-	28·0	1·7	·001	·006	·100	0	·024

The approximate average composition of the total solids is as follows :—

Sodium Chloride	-	-	-	-	9·2
Sodium Nitrate	-	-	-	-	2·3
Magnesium Sulphate (dry)	-	-	-	-	4·6
Calcium Sulphate	-	-	-	-	9·2
Calcium Carbonate	-	-	-	-	71·0
Silica	-	-	-	-	3·7
Trace of potash, iron, &c.	-	-	-	-	—

100·0

The amount of calcium carbonate varies, and is larger in the winter than in the summer.

MIDWIVES ACT, 1902.

Two cases of Puerperal Fever were notified during the year, one of which terminated fatally. Careful investigations were made, but the source of infection could not be traced and no evidence could be obtained that the mischief was due to want of care or cleanliness on the part of those connected with the cases.

The following is the report of Miss Martin, Superintendent of Midwives :—

NOTIFICATIONS.	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908
To practice Midwifery.	4	15	25	29	30
Sending for Medical help	0	1	5	19	33
Still-births (no doctor present)	4	4	4	4	11
Deaths (no doctor present)	0	0	0	0	*2

* Babies.

The above figures show that the importance of the Rules of the Central Midwives' Board is better realized than it has been in previous years. The improvement is not only in the case of sending in notifications, but in keeping registers, in the condition of the midwives' bags, and in the treatment of their cases.

172 visits have been paid during the year to certified midwives and other women practising midwifery. Of the latter, who must cease to practise when the Act comes into full force in April, 1910, several have a large practice (varying from 12 to 60 cases in a year), in spite of being totally unfit to undertake such responsible duties. Fortunately, in this City there are a number of nurses, trained in maternity work, who are awaiting an opportunity to do district midwifery; we

have, therefore, no need to fear that next year Oxford will find any lack of midwives such as may be found in country districts. Several women have applied for information as to the cost of training and have asked for help in this respect. These have all been referred to the Midwives' Inspector for Oxford County, and have been supplied with the forms of application for a County Midwifery Grant, as their services are not needed in the City.

The Central Midwives' Board have issued a leaflet dealing with some of the symptoms and the early care of cancer. A parcel of these leaflets was obtained, and each midwife and maternity nurse was urged to study the paper. Another leaflet has been distributed to midwives for their patients, dealing with Summer Diarrhœa. This was published in June, from the Sanitary Department, and is as follows :—

CITY OF OXFORD.



SUMMER DIARRHŒA.

Summer Diarrhœa is one of the most fatal diseases of young children. Breast-fed babies hardly ever suffer from it.

It may be prevented by taking particular care of the child, and the cleanliness of its food and surroundings.

(1) Cow's milk should be boiled before being used, and, if kept, should be covered with a clean damp cloth to prevent dust getting into it. The Feeding Bottle should be boiled before each meal.

(2) Infants should not be weaned during the hottest months of the year.

(3) No tainted food or sour milk should be bought or used.

(4) Children's bodies and clothing should be kept clean. Soiled napkins and other clothes should not be allowed to lie about, but should at once be put into water to soak, and washed as soon as possible.

(5) Extra care should be taken to keep the house and back yard clean.

(6) Flies are a great source of danger, as they infect food by walking over it. The dust-box should be kept covered up, as far from the house as possible. Kitchen refuse should be burnt on the fire, and no collection of rubbish should be allowed.

(7) Sinks, gulleys, and closets should be kept clean and flushed daily.

Inform the Sanitary Department, Town Hall, if drains are stopped up, if water supply is deficient, or if other defects exist.

June, 1908.

Early in the year one midwife was threatened with suspension because of neglect of the eyes of certain infants in her care, and for breaking other C.M.B. rules, but since the threat induced improvement, she is still allowed to practise, though a great amount of supervision of her work is required. In her case, and with other certified but untrained midwives, it has been advisable to spend an occasional morning in visiting all her lying-in patients in turn, with a view to understanding her methods and offering appropriate advice and instruction.

One certified midwife died during the year and two others have left Oxford, but, new ones having come to the district or having lately taken up midwifery, the numbers remain almost the same as in other years.

Disinfectants have been supplied at 623 confinements on receipt of order-cards from midwives.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901.

A very large amount of work has been done during the past year, and there is a marked improvement, especially in the outworkers' premises, as shown by the decrease in the percentage of defects found. The sending of notices to employers each January and July to remind them of their obligations under this Act is proving efficacious.

The number of inspections of outworkers' premises was 283, while the defects were only 20.

The number of workshops is increasing (77 more than last year), but some time must elapse before the list is complete.

The total number of inspections of factories and workshops was 689, against 528 last year, while the defects found numbered 112 against 114. Only 11 breaches of special sanitary requirements for bakehouses were found, and the general conditions show continued improvement.

Only one case of Scarlet Fever was notified in the home of a worker in a tailor's workshop, and one in the house of an outworker. The necessary precautions were taken in each instance, and no further mischief arose.

1.—INSPECTION.

INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTORS OR
INSPECTORS OF NUISANCES.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspec- tions.	Written Notices.	Prosecu- tions.
Factories - - - - - (Including Factory Laundries.)	49	1	..
Workshops - - - - - (Including Workshop Laundries.)	636	10	..
Workplaces - - - - -	4	1	..
Total - - - - -	689	12	..

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.*

Particulars.	Number of defects.			Number of Prosecutions.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—</i>				
Want of cleanliness - - -	39	34	..	..
Want of ventilation . - -	10	9	..	..
Overcrowding - - -	11	9	..	..
Want of drainage of floors - -	5	5	..	..
Other nuisances - - -	14	13	..	..
Sanitary ac- { insufficient - - -	6	5	..	..
commoda- { unsuitable or defective	12	12	..	..
tion { not separate for sexes -	4	3	..	..
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act :—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101) - - -				
Breach of special sanitary require- ments for bakehouses (ss. 97 to 100)	11	11	..	..
Other offences - - -				
Total - - -	112	101	..	.

* Verbal notices only were given in the majority of cases, some of which had not been complied with on Dec. 31st.

3.—HOME WORK.

NATURE OF WORK.	OUTWORKERS' LISTS, SECTION 107.								Number of Inspection of Out- workers' premises
	Lists received from Employers.						Numbers of Addresses of Outworkers.		
	Twice in the Year.			Once in the Year.			Received from other Councils.	Forwarded to other Councils.	
	Lists	Con- tractors	Out- workers	Lists.	Con- tractors	Out- workers			
Wearing Apparel: (1) making, &c.	112	11	986	1	..	5	2	114	276
(2) cleaning and washing -	..	..	18	..	..	..	..	..	5
Furniture and Up- holstery -	10	..	18	..	..	..	..	..	2
Total -	122	11	1022	1	..	5	2	114	283

4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register (s. 131) at the end of the year.						Number.
Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	..	51
Laundries	..	..	..	..	..	59
Domestic Workshops	..	..	..	..	..	122
Other ..	..	..	..	..	..	342
Total number of workshops on Register						574

5.—OTHER MATTERS.

Class.	Number.
Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories :—	
Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act (s. 133)	43
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshop Act (s. 5)	9
Notified by H.M. Inspector Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector	9
Other .. .. .	..
Underground bakehouses (s. 101) :—	
Certificates granted during the year	Nil.
In use at the end of the year	3

INFANT MORTALITY.

Last year, for the third year in succession, the rate was under 100 per 1,000 births. In my report for 1903 a table is given showing the rates per 1,000 births for the different causes of deaths among infants since 1875.

Taking the figures for periods of years, we find that the average rate from 1875 to 1879 was 142·6, for the two following decennial periods 137·1 and 138·5 respectively, while for the last nine years, including 1908, it was only 108·8, owing to the low rates in 1903 and the last 3 years. The marked improvement recently is shown by the fact that the average of the 28 years, 1875 to 1902 inclusive, was 137·2, while the figures for the following years were 94·7, 112·7, 118·4, 97·5, 86·5, and, last year, 94·4.

Throughout the country generally there has been a slight improvement in the rate of Infant Mortality, but the improvement in Oxford is so great that some special local explanation is required, and I think that there is little or no doubt this explanation is to be found in the work done by the Oxford Ladies' Health Committee. This work began in 1905, and growing ever since, now deals with the infants in all parts of the City. The main object of the work was to

save infant life, and, not only has this object been attained, but a higher standard of domestic hygiene has been set up in many a home, to the great advantage of the older children.

Some idea of the work done in 1908 may be gathered from the table given below, in which it will be seen that seven hundred and ninety-two infants were visited in 1908 by a large staff of health visitors, assisted by the district visitors. In many instances one or two visits only were paid, but often it was necessary to see a child daily for many months. The plan of supplying unsatisfactory babies with modified milk, begun in 1907, was continued with most gratifying results.

District.	No. of Infants visited, 1908.	No. of Health Visitors, &c.*
St. Clement's (Civil Parish) . . .	84	6
St. Ebbe's (Civil Parish) . . .	145	19
St. Aldate's (Ecclesiastical Parish).	46	6
St. Thomas (Ecclesiastical Parish).	57	12
St. Paul and St. Barnabas . . .	90	18
Cowley St. John	260	25
Central Oxford	34	7
Summertown	76	13
Total	792	..

* Help from District Visitors.

In addition to the informal advice given by the visitors, a course of six lectures dealing chiefly with the care and management of infants was given by doctors and ladies to mothers in the Jericho district, in addition to a few lectures and informal addresses by ladies of the Health Committee to mothers' meetings and other societies. The Health Committee, though a purely voluntary and independent body, keep in touch with the Sanitary Authority through Miss Martin, the Official Health Visitor, who paid 566 visits to 202 babies.

Of the 112 deaths, 93 (of which eleven were under one

week of age) were investigated, and particulars as to cause of death, feeding, &c., will be found in the following table :

DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR.

	Cause of death.		Nursed only.	Nursed partial.	Milk and water.	Patent foods.	Milk and bread or oatmeal.	Modified milk.	Totals.
1 to 4 weeks.	Premature Birth, &c. -	-	2	1	..	..	..	..	3
	Convulsions and Dentition	-	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Wasting, Inanition, &c.	-	..	1	3	..	..	..	4
	Diarrhœa, &c. -	-	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Bronchitis, Pneumonia -	-	5	..	..	..	..	..	5
	Other causes -	-	2	..	..	..	..	..	2
			9	2	3	..	..	..	14
1 to 4 months.	Premature Birth, &c. -	-	1	..	1	..	..	1	3
	Convulsions and Dentition	-	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Wasting, Inanition, &c.	-	3	..	2	1	..	2	8
	Diarrhœa, &c. -	-	1	..	2	..	..	1	4
	Bronchitis, Pneumonia -	-	8	..	1	..	..	1	10
	Other causes -	-	2	..	..	1	..	..	3
			15	..	6	2	..	5	28
4 to 6 months.	Premature Birth, &c. -	-	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Convulsions and Dentition	-	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Wasting, Inanition, &c.	-	1	..	1	1	..	..	3
	Diarrhœa, &c. -	-	1	1	1	..	..	..	3
	Bronchitis, Pneumonia -	-	..	..	2	1	1	..	4
	Other causes -	-	3	..	1	..	..	..	4
			5	1	5	2	1	..	14
6 to 12 months.	Premature Birth, &c. -	-	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Convulsions and Dentition	-	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
	Wasting, Inanition, &c. -	-	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
	Diarrhœa, &c. -	-	2	2	1	2	..	..	7
	Bronchitis, Pneumonia -	-	4	3	1	..	..	1	9
	Other causes -	-	3	1	3	..	..	1	8
			10	6	5	3	..	2	26
	Total -	-	39	9	19	7	1	7	82

The low percentage of deaths from the diarrrhœal diseases among breast-fed children is well brought out, and no comment is needed. In table IVA. will be found the causes of death at different ages of the 112 infants, and it will be noticed that the difference between the figure for last year and 1907 is accounted for by an increase of 12 in the diarrrhœal group, 9 in the respiratory group, and 6 in the common infectious diseases. The cause of death in the case of one premature infant who survived a few minutes was not medically certified. One important matter must not be overlooked, namely—the high death-rate among illegitimate children, the rate during the last 4 years in Oxford being slightly over 206 per 1,000 for such children, against 93.2 for legitimate. In Table IV will be found the birth-rate, &c., for the different parishes, and it will be seen that St. Ebbe's has again attained the position which it used to share with St. Clement's three years ago. The total number of deaths under 1 year of age in this parish was 24, too small a number to draw definite conclusions from, as a slight increase or the reverse, would make a considerable difference in the rate. The increase compared to last year is to be attributed mainly to twins, bronchitis, and diarrrhœa, and renewed efforts must be made this year to reduce the rate.

THE INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

This report deals at length with the work done in the removal of nuisances, disinfection, &c. Information will also be found with regard to the work done in removal of house refuse, road scavenging, public bathing places, &c., the inspection of slaughter-houses, dairies and milkshops, and common lodging-houses, and the carrying out of various Acts.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A. L. ORMEROD, M.A., M.D.,

D.P.H. (Oxon), F.R.C.P.,

January, 1909.

Medical Officer of Health.

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III. Vital Statistics of the whole district for 1908 and previous years.

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The deaths of residents in Public Institutions have been referred to their proper parishes.

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V. Deaths in Public Institutions.

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In the event of a non-resident being admitted to any of the following Institutions situated in the City, viz. Radcliffe Infirmary, Eye Hospital, City Hospital, St. John's Hospital, or the Warneford Asylum, and dying there, the death is excluded, while the death of an Oxford resident occurring in the Small Pox Hospital, Headington Workhouse, or Littlemore Asylum, which are not in the City, is included in the nett death-rate.

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VIII. Ages of cases notified during 1908.

IX. Districts in which the cases occurred.

X. Deaths from some of the more important preventable diseases since 1874.

XI. The Zymotic Death-rate.

TABLE I. POPULATION 1901 CENSUS.

Civil Parish.	Area in Statute Acres.	HOUSES.				Population.	
		Inhabit- ed.	Uninhabited.		Build- ing.	1891.	1901.
			In occu- pation.	Not in oc- cupation.			
Binsey . . .	425	14	..	..	..	78	54
Cowley St. John . .	603	2427	46	69	19	8668	11061
Holywell . . .	249	143	1	8	1	709	710
Oxford University, Colleges & Halls	..	77	2	..	..	252	279
St. Aldate . . .	533	1066	27	22	27	4091	4883
St. Clement . . .	531	692	28	30	..	3533	3365
St. Ebbe . . .	48	978	36	27	..	4964	4486
St. Giles . . .	1430	2449	90	81	31	10548	11877
St. John . . .	9	32	1	2	..	91	83
St. Martin and All Saints . . .	12	96	56	2	2	633	452
St. Mary Magdalen	42	318	45	15	..	1733	1377
St. Mary-the-Virgin	12	50	10	2	..	224	206
St. Michael . . .	15	130	90	7	..	592	586
St. Peter-in-the-East	86	91	13	6	5	497	366
St. Peter-le-Bailey .	11	136	45	7	..	695	656
St. Thomas . . .	712	1785	36	28	..	8434	8895
Unnamed . . .	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
City of Oxford . .	4719	10484	526	306	85	45742	49336

TABLE II. AGE AND SEX DISTRIBUTION OF THE POPULATION.

	All ages.	0-	5-	10-	15-	20-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75-	85-
Persons	49336	4742	4715	5190	5247	4777	7649	6207	4791	3321	1897	693	107
Males	21827	2390	2357	2601	2245	1884	3083	2704	2095	1375	794	273	26
Females	27509	2352	2358	2589	3002	2893	4566	3503	2696	1946	1103	420	81

TABLE III. VITAL STATISTICS OF THE WHOLE DISTRICT.

YEAR.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births.		Total deaths registered in the district.				Total deaths in Public Institutions in the district.	Deaths of non-residents registered in Pub. Inst. in the district.	Deaths of residents registered in Pub. Inst. beyond the district.	Nett deaths at all ages belonging to the district.	
				Under 1 year of age.		At all ages.						
		Num-ber.	Rate.	Num-ber.	Rate per 1000 births registered	Num-ber.	Rate.				Num-ber.	Rate.
I	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1898	48346	1160	24'0	140	120'5	674	13'9	118	..	..	662	13'7
1899	48706	1094	22'3	159	145'5	824	16'9	135	55	19	788	16'2
1900	49066	1151	23'2	137	119'0	720	14'7	126	37	34	717	14'6
1901	49426	1132	23'0	147	129'5	687	13'9	143	28	27	686	13'9
1902	49786	1110	22'3	148	133'3	764	15'3	163	68	30	726	14'6
1903	50146	1024	20'4	100	97'6	681	13'5	141	52	28	657	13'1
1904	50506	1100	21'8	124	112'7	707	14'0	173	85	19	641	12'7
1905	50866	1081	21'2	127	117'5	709	13'9	170	74	28	663	13'0
1906	51226	1092	21'3	111	101'6	726	14'2	182	71	35	690	13'5
1907	51586	1017	19'7	97	95'3	717	13'9	187	85	20	652	12'6
Average of ten years.	49960	1096	22'0	129	118'0	721	14'5	154	62	26	689	13'8
1908	51946	1186	22'8	116	97'8	732	14'1	174	78	20	674	12'9

Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13 calculated per 1000 of estimated population.

TABLE IV. DEATHS AND BIRTHS DISTRIBUTED AMONG PARISHES.

Civil Parish of	Popu- lation, 1901.	Births.		Deaths.						Deaths under 1 year, rate per 1000 births.
		Num- ber.	Rate	0-	1-	5-	65-	Total	Rate	
Binsey -	54	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cowley St. John -	11061	318	28·8	25	8	43	49	125	11·3	78·7
Holywell -	710	9	12·6	1	..	2	2	5	7·0	111·0
Oxford Univ. (part) -	279	2	7·2	..	..	1	2	3	10·7	..
St. Aldate -	4883	137	28·1	13	3	26	26	68	13·9	95·0
St. Clement -	3365	93	27·6	9	4	24	22	59	17·5	97·0
St. Ebbe -	4486	151	33·7	24	8	33	17	82	18·3	159·0
St. Giles -	11877	223	18·8	19	5	60	68	152	12·8	85·0
St. John -	83	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
St. Martin -	452	5	11·0	..	..	4	1	5	11·0	..
St. Mary Magdalen -	1377	12	8·7	1	1	7	13	22	16·0	83·3
St. Mary-the-Virgin -	206	3	14·5	1	1	2	1	5	24·3	333·3
St. Michael -	586	7	11·9	..	1	3	3	7	11·9	..
St. Peter-in-the-East -	366	3	8·2	..	..	4	2	6	16·4	..
St. Peter-le-Bailey -	656	13	19·8	1	2	3	1	7	10·6	77·0
St. Thomas -	8895	210	23·6	18	8	63	39	128	14·4	86·0

TABLE IVa. INFANTILE MORTALITY.

CAUSE OF DEATH.		Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1-2 Months.	2-3 Months.	3-4 Months.	4-5 Months.	5-6 Months.	6-7 Months.	7-8 Months.	8-9 Months.	9-10 Months.	10-11 Months.	11-12 Months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
i. Common Infectious Diseases.	Small-pox - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Chicken-pox - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Measles - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Scarlet Fever - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup) -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
	Whooping Cough -	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	2	...	...	1	3	...	...	8
ii. Diarrhœal Diseases.	Diarrhœa, all forms -	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	2	1	1	3	...	...	1	...	11
	Enteritis, Muco-enteritis, Gastro-enteritis -	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	5
	Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarrh.	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	
iii. Wasting Diseases.	Premature Birth - -	14	2	2	...	18	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
	Congenital Defects -	2	1	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
	Injury at Birth - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Want of Breast-milk, Starvation - -	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	4
	Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus - -	...	2	3	...	5	4	3	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
iv. Tuberculous Diseases.	Tuberculous Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
	Tuberculous Peritonitis : Tabes Mesenterica -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
	Other Tuberculous Diseases - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
	
v. Other Causes.	Erysipelas - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Syphilis - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
	Rickets - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Meningitis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>) - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Convulsions - - -	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
	Bronchitis - - -	...	1	...	2	3	2	2	1	1	...	...	1	1	...	1	...	12
	Laryngitis - - -	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Pneumonia - - -	...	...	1	2	3	1	2	2	1	2	2	...	...	...	2	2	17
	Suffocation, overlying	1	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
	Other Causes - -	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	3
Total - -		19	6	8	4	37	14	11	8	8	7	5	5	3	4	5	5	112

TABLE IVb.

Causes of death.	Binsey.	Cowley St. John.	Holywell.	Oxford Univ. (part).	St. Aldates.	St. Clements.	St. Ebbes.	St. Giles.	St. John.	St. Martin.	St. Mary Magdalen.	St. Mary-the-Virgin.	St. Michael.	St. Peter-in-the-East.	St. Peter-le-Bailey.	St. Thomas.	Residents in Public Institutions.
Measles - -
Scarlet Fever -	2	..
Diphtheria -	2	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Enteric Fever -
Diarrhœa -	..	5	..	..	1	1	7	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Influenza -	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1
Whooping Cough -	..	6	..	..	..	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	2
Enteritis -	..	1	..	..	1	..	1	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Erysipelas -	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Fever -	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Other septic diseases	1	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2
Phthisis - -	..	9	..	..	4	4	7	11	..	..	1	1	2	..	2	11	8
Other tubercular diseases - -	..	1	..	1	1	1	2	3	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Cancer - -	..	11	1	..	3	5	5	9	..	..	1	1	..	1	1	12	4
Bronchitis -	..	9	..	..	4	2	9	13	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	11	2
Pneumonia -	..	8	..	..	9	2	5	13	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	10	11
Other respiratory diseases - -	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	3
Alcoholism and cirrhosis of liver -	1	..	1	2	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	2	1
Venereal diseases -	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2
Premature Birth -	..	6	..	..	4	1	3	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	..
Heart disease -	..	15	..	..	10	10	10	18	..	1	2	1	1	..	1	14	17
Accidents - -
Suicides & Homicides - -	..	6	1	..	2	1	..	1	..	..	1	1	..	1	..	11	4
All other causes -	..	43	3	2	26	28	28	64	..	2	11	1	3	4	..	38	54
Total	125	5	3	68	59	82	152	..	5	22	5	7	6	7	128	116

TABLE V. DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.

Name of Institution.	Residents.					Non-Residents.				
	1st Qr.	2nd Qr.	3rd Qr.	4th Qr.	Total.	1st. Qr.	2nd Qr.	3rd Qr.	4th Qr.	Total.
Radcliffe Infirmary	11	10	9	11	41	16	18	21	18	73
St. John's Hospital	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	1
City Hospital	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..
Eye Hospital	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Small Pox Hos- pital	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Oxford Workhouse	11	10	17	6	44	..	..	..	..	..
Headington Work- house	..	5	3	3	11	..	..	..	..	..
Littlemore Asylum	2	1	1	5	9	..	..	..	..	..
Warneford Asylum	7	2	..	..	9	2	..	1	..	3
Total	32	28	30	26	116	18	18	23	19	78

TABLE VI. CAUSES AND AGES OF DEATHS WHICH MAKE UP THE NETT DEATH-RATE.

No.	DISEASE.	Ages.										Total for Quarters.				
		0	1	5	15	25	35	45	55	65	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Ttl.	
3	Scarlet Fever . . . . .	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	2
5	Epidemic Influenza . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	7	4	2	...	2	8
6	Whooping Cough	8	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	6	5	1	14
7	Diphtheria	1	1	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	1	2	6
10	Diarrhoea	11	3	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	1	...	13	3	17
12	Gastro-Enteritis	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	1	6	...	7
18	Syphilis	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	1	1	3
21	Erysipelas	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
22	Puerperal Fever . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
23	Pyæmia . . . . .	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
24	Infective Endocarditis . . . . .	...	...	...	1	...	...	3	...	2	1	3	...	2	6
29	Tuberculosis of Brain	1	2	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	2	2
31	Phthisis . . . . .	...	...	2	13	9	10	9	5	4	10	16	9	...	5
32	Abdominal Tuberculosis	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
33	General Tuberculosis	1	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	...	4
40	Disease due to Altered Food . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
42	Alcoholism . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	...	4
45	Osteo-Arthritis . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
47	Cancer . . . . .	...	...	...	1	...	4	7	16	22	2	1	1	...	2
48	Diabetes Mellitus . . . . .	...	...	1	1	1	...	3	2	2	2	2	1	16	4
51	Anæmia . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	...	2	1	1	...	4
53	Premature Birth	22	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	5	5	...	22
55	Debility at Birth	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
56	Atelectasis	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
57	Congenital Defects	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
59	Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus	17	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	2
60	Dentition . . . . .	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	52	22	11	8	...	52
61	Rickets . . . . .	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	2
62	Old Age, Senile Decay . . . . .	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
63	Convulsions . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	3	5	...	17
64	Meningitis	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2
66	Apoplexy, and Softening of } Brain }	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
67	Hemiplegia . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	6	27	10	13	6	8	37
68	General Paralysis of Insane . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	...	...	1	2
69	Other forms of Insanity . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	2	1	1	1	...	5	7
70	Epilepsy . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	1	...	...	2
73	Locomotor Ataxy . . . . .	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	...	2
75	Paraplegia . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
76	Other forms of Brain Disease	1	1	...	1	...	2	2	1	2	5	1	4	...	10	
77	Otitis	1	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	1	...	3
78	Angina Pectoris . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	2	2
84	Aneurism . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
85	Senile Gangrene . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	1
86	Embolism, Thrombosis } Phlebitis }	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	11	6	3	4	1	14
87	Heart Disease . . . . .	...	1	1	2	3	4	8	21	39	22	19	21	17	79
88	Laryngitis . . . . .	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	1	...	1	4
90	Bronchitis	12	5	...	1	...	...	3	6	25	22	12	8	10	52
95	Pneumonia	17	9	1	2	1	...	6	2	11	24	12	3	10	49	
98	Emphysema, Asthma . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1
99	Other Diseases, Respiratory System . . . . .	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	1	1	...	...	3
101	Diseases of Pharynx . . . . .	...	1	...	...	2	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	1	3
103	Diseases of Œsophagus . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	3	5
104	Ulcer of Stomach . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
105	Other Diseases of Stomach	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	3
106	Enteritis . . . . .	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2
107	Appendicitis . . . . .	...	...	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
108	Obstruction of Intestines . . . . .	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	2	7	1	5	2	4	11
109	Other Diseases of Intestines . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	1
110	Cirrhosis of Liver . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	1	1	...	...	2	2	5
111	Other Diseases of Liver . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	2	...	1	3
112	Peritonitis . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
113	Diseases, Lymphatic System . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	2
115	Nephritis . . . . .	...	...	1	...	1	2	2	3	8	3	2	5	7	17
116	Calculus . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	...	...	1	2
117	Diseases of Bladder and Prostrate . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	4	2	2	1	...	5
118	Diseases of Testis and Penis . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1
119	Diseases of Uterus, and Appendages . . . . .	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	4
121	Placenta Prævia, Flooding . . . . .	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
123	Other Diseases, Pregnancy and Childbirth . . . . .	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
129	Diseases of Osseous System . . . . .	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
133	ACCIDENTS.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
139	In Vehicular Traffic . . . . .	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	2
142	In Building Operations . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
146	Poisons, Poisonous Vapours . . . . .	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
150	Drowning . . . . .	...	1	1	3	1	...	2	2	1	...	4	6	1	11
151	Suffocation, Overlaid in Bed	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	2
155	Otherwise not stated . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	3	...	...	...	3
159	SUICIDES.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
159	By Hanging and Strangulation . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	1	...	2
160	Drowning . . . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
162	By Cut or Stab . . . . .	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
164	By Crushing . . . . .	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
168	Undefined and Unspecified Causes	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	2	...	1	...	3
	Total	112	41	17	36	26	40	70	86	246	201	153	149	161	674	

TABLE VII. NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES
DURING LAST TEN YEARS.

Name of Disease.	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908
Small Pox .	..	..	1	1	14	2	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever .	40	39	42	66	175	384	472	314	58	119
Diphtheria .	91	131	122	76	63	21	19	37	67	59
Typhoid Fever .	11	24	5	5	8	5	3	3	6	6
Erysipelas .	28	36	27	28	19	22	31	59	32	21
Puerperal Fever .	3	5	2	1	..	1	2	4	4	2
Total .	173	235	199	177	279	435	527	417	167	207

TABLE VIII. AGES OF CASES NOTIFIED DURING 1908.

Name of Disease.	0-1	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-65	65-	Total.
Small Pox -	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever -	1	28	73	13	4	..	119
Diphtheria -	..	13	22	16	8	..	59
Erysipelas -	2	..	..	5	10	4	21
Puerperal Fever -	..	..	..	1	1	..	2
Typhoid Fever -	..	..	..	4	2	..	6
Total -	3	41	95	39	25	4	207

TABLE IX. DISTRIBUTION OF CASES OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES
DURING 1908.

Parish.	Notified.							Removed to Hospital.			
	Small Pox.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Erysipelas.	Typhoid Fever.	Puerperal Fever.	Total.	Small Pox.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Total.
Binsey
Cowley St. John	19	2	6	1	1	29	..	16	2	18
Holywell	1	1	2	..	..	4	..	1	..	1
Oxford Univer- sity (part)	2	2	..	1	..	5	..	1	..	1
St. Aldate	19	4	..	..	1	24	..	19	2	21
St. Clement	3	4	3	..	..	10	..	3	4	7
St. Ebbe	6	1	2	1	..	10	..	5	..	5
St. Giles	44	24	4	1	..	73	..	37	12	49
St. John
St. Martin and All Saints
St. Mary Mag- dalen	1	3	..	..	..	4	..	1	2	3
St. Mary-the- Virgin	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	1
St. Michael	2	..	..	..	..	2	..	1	..	1
St. Peter-in-the- East	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
St. Peter-le-Bai- ley	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	1
St. Thomas	22	15	4	2	..	43	..	19	12	31
Total	119	59	21	6	2	207	..	103	36	139

TABLE X. DEATHS FROM SOME OF THE
PREVENTABLE DISEASES.

Year.	Small Pox.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Croup and Laryngitis.	Fever.	Enteric Fever.	Diarrhoea.	Dysentery.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Tuberculosis.	Respiratory Diseases.
1874	18	15	4	6	39	..	13	4	111	83
1875	..	1	19	5	3	8	40	..	..	16	107	119
1876	..	11	7	2	6	12	37	..	4	9	104	57
1877	..	35	9	7	2	11	17	..	22	1	106	103
1878	..	11	9	3	3	9	54	..	7	29	109	149
1879	..	2	13	5	..	7	9	..	1	6	100	93
1880	..	8	7	2	..	4	47	..	12	2	91	136
1881	1	14	6	4	:	9	17	..	28	22	73	94
1882	4	84	6	4	..	8	25	..	3	13	56	104
1883	1	9	3	6	..	7	19	..	..	8	82	121
1884	..	3	2	4	..	15	21	..	11	34	82	91
1885	..	3	4	1	..	5	17	..	26	6	87	123
1886	1	1	3	2	..	4	23	..	16	16	104	111
1887	..	3	5	1	..	7	31	..	7	12	69	133
1888	1	2	..	5	16	..	4	2	67	78
1889	..	1	5	..	..	1	32	..	41	11	65	105
1890	..	6	..	..	..	2	21	..	10	13	98	145
1891	..	5	3	1	..	1	12	..	24	5	79	138
1892	23	5	..	1	11	1	3	36	83	145
1893	..	6	32	9	..	2	14	..	25	..	74	103
1894	..	2	23	3	..	3	10	..	..	2	80	75
1895	14	4	..	1	23	..	..	24	79	135
1896	..	2	5	5	..	4	23	..	52	18	66	100
1897	2	2	..	6	20	..	4	23	65	114
1898	5	3	..	2	27	1	..	4	61	113
1899	3	1	..	..	22	..	38	9	66	102
1900	2	2	..	4	13	..	2	17	74	126
1901	3	3	..	..	13	..	..	1	56	110
1902	1	1	2	1	..	..	3	..	20	18	81	116
1903	2	1	1	..	..	2	13	..	..	10	71	81
1904	..	4	..	2	..	..	31	..	8	3	68	73
1905	..	8	2	1	..	1	17	..	7	22	57	99
1906	..	7	6	2	..	1	14	..	1	7	62	98
1907	..	1	5	4	..	1	6	..	3	..	68	100
1908	..	2	6	4	..	..	17	..	..	14	62	105

TABLE XI. THE ZYMOTIC DEATH-RATE
PER 1,000.

	England & Wales.	76 Towns.	142 Towns.	Oxford.
Small Pox - -	<i>Figures</i>	<i>not yet</i>	<i>published.</i>	0'000
Scarlet Fever -				0'038
Measles - -				0'000
Whooping Cough				0'269
Diphtheria - -				0'116
Fever - - -				0'000
Diarrhœa - -				0'327
Total				0'750

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S
REPORT,
1908.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT,

1908.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S OFFICE,
TOWN HALL, OXFORD.

20th January, 1909.

To the Members of the Oxford City Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of submitting to you my annual report for the year ending December 31st, 1908.

INSPECTIONS OF PREMISES.

The number of inspections of houses, yards, courts, and passages, made to ascertain their sanitary condition, and also to investigate cases of alleged nuisances, was 1,031.

A register or record is kept, showing particulars in respect of every dwelling inspected. The number of inspections given does not include those made under the Factory and Workshop Act or those of the common lodging houses, houses let in lodgings, &c., or re-inspections to see if defects had been remedied or whilst the various works were in progress in order to ascertain if requirements of notices were being carried out.

I have on numerous occasions been accompanied by the Medical Officer of Health.

ABATEMENT OF NUISANCES.

The various nuisances and defects discovered in the course of inspections have been promptly dealt with. This year, instead of serving the ordinary Inspector's notices, a letter has been sent in most instances to those responsible, calling their attention to the defects. It is satisfactory to record that out of 691 instances only 110 were formally reported to the Committee, together with 99 other reports as to nuisances.

In addition to these, 44 notices have been served on occupiers, calling upon them to cleanse common passages.

During the year a considerable amount of work has been carried out. One hundred and fourteen houses have been wholly or partly cleansed and limewashed, and thirty-nine others have been put in good order. The four houses in Dodd's Row have been provided with a separate w.c. and wash-house, and the yard has been repaved. In 80 instances the surfaces of the yards, chiefly at the rear of dwelling houses, have been repaved or repaired, and in 93 cases defective house roofs, guttering, or spouting have been repaired. The question of additional closet accommodation in some of the yards is receiving attention, and when the Public Health Act of 1907 is adopted, additional powers will be obtained for this and many other improvements.

The annexed table will show the large amount of work carried out in order to comply with letters and notices addressed from this department.

Description of Works carried out.	After letters or notices from	
	Inspector.	Committee.
Houses cleansed, repaired, and limewashed (wholly or partly)	65	49
Houses put in good order	27	12
House roofs repaired	25	13
Spouting repaired or refixed	34	21
Cases of overcrowding dealt with	11	4
New washhouses built	6	..
New closets built	9	1
Washhouses repaired or limewashed	48	25
Closets repaired or limewashed	54	35
Drains cleared	140	30
New drains laid	23	1
Drains repaired, ventilated, &c. . . .	45	16
New glazed scullery sinks fixed	24	7
New drain traps fixed	14	5
Waste pipes fixed to scullery sinks	14	12
New closet pans fixed	17	7
Houses supplied with City water	1	9
Polluted wells closed and pumps removed	1	1
Closets supplied with water (fittings repaired)	69	8
Yards repaved or paving repaired	58	22
Nuisances from swine (removed)	3	7
Accumulations of manure and refuse removed	30	2
Entrance passages to yards and courts cleansed and limewashed	10	2
Smoke nuisances abated	3	..
Other nuisances abated	48	11

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES ACTS.

Representation has been made to the Sanitary Committee that 19 houses were unfit for human habitation. Of this number 12 referred to houses in Dovers Row, and proceedings were taken in the City Court, and a closing order obtained for each.

There are 28 houses in the Row, and all are now void. As there is a scarcity of small houses in the City, it is hoped that before long steps will be taken to put the houses in a sanitary condition.

As to the remaining 7 houses, five have been repaired, and one demolished by the respective owners. Proceedings were taken with a view to a closing order, with respect to the other, and although pending at the close of 1908, a closing order was granted early in the present year.

OVERCROWDING.

The record of the houses inspected during the year shows that there are a number of full houses in the City, but owing to the scarcity of the supply of suitable dwellings to which dwellers in these houses can remove, only those cases have been dealt with where gross overcrowding existed.

In all, fifteen cases of overcrowding have been remedied. Of these it was only necessary to bring 4 before the notice of the Sanitary Committee.

The following details of the worst may be of interest.

(1) St. Mary Magdalen. 1 sitting room and 1 bedroom, about 750 cubic feet in each. Man and wife. Sons, 23 and 21. Daughters, 17 and 14.

(2) St. Ebbe's. 1 sitting room, small washhouse, and 3 bedrooms, 950, 800, and 650 cubic feet respectively. Man and wife. Daughters, 21, 15. Lodgers: Man and wife and 5 children; woman, adult son, and daughters 7 and 5.

(3) St. Thomas'. 1 sitting room and 1 bedroom. Premises very dilapidated, since demolished. Man and wife, son 21, daughters 27, 15, 13, grandson 5.

- (4) St. Clements. 1 sitting room and 1 bedroom. Approximately 650 cubic feet in each. Woman, son 12, daughters 18, 9, 4, and man lodger.
- (5) Cowley St. John. 2 sitting rooms, washhouse, and 3 bedrooms. Man and wife. Daughters 40, 32, 22. Son and wife. Grandchildren, boys 4, 7, 12, girls 8, 7, 4, 2.

HOUSES BUILT.

I am indebted to the Building Inspector for the following information :—

					Houses built.	Estimated number. 7/6 per week and under
1904	-	-	-	-	159	42
1905	-	-	-	-	196	95
1906	-	-	-	-	185	84
1907	-	-	-	-	151	71
1908	-	-	-	-	182	61
Totals					873	353

Note.—It should be mentioned that although the figures are correct in total, one year overlaps another. For instance, for the year 1908 plans for other houses than those shown in that year have been submitted but not yet built.

CALLS AT OFFICE AND COMPLAINTS.

For the purpose of making enquiries and other business, 6,615 calls at the Office have been made, and 331 complaints as to nuisances have been received and attended to. Two cases in which the nuisance complained of was ‘ a smell from drains ’ are of special interest, the cause of the smell being in one case the use of stale starch for the window curtains, while in the other it arose from a plant in the garden called *Phuopsis stylosa* (*Crucianella*).

DRAIN TESTING.

Of the 28 drains tested, 19 were found to be in a defective condition. Notices served on the owners calling upon them to put the drains in order were complied with.

WATER SUPPLY.

A case of Enteric Fever having been reported from one of the houses in a yard in St. Thomas', a sample of water from the pump, which supplied 9 houses with water, was submitted to the Public Analyst, who reported that 'the water was not of a satisfactory quality for drinking or domestic purposes.'

The attention of the owner was called to this report, and a supply of water was obtained from the City mains.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

As in previous years the dwelling vans of persons attending the various fairs in Oxford have been inspected in order to ascertain their sanitary condition. 145 vans were inspected, and the whole found satisfactory, due no doubt to the regular inspection.

The following table gives the particulars of the inspections at each fair.

The figures do not include the large number of itinerant vendors attending.

Fair.	Vans used as dwellings	Luggage wagons.	Men.	Women.	Children.
Gloucester Green	27	33	55	31	30
St. Giles' -	113	148	301	130	101
St. Clement's -	5*	8*	7	4	3
	145	189	363	165	134

* The vans were in private yards.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS.

I have procured and submitted to the Public Analyst (W. W. Fisher, Esq., M.A., F.I.C.) 58 samples, of which 45 were taken informally as recommended by the Government Inspector.

All the formal samples and 42 of the informal were reported to be genuine.

The only adulterated samples were butter (2) and Demerara sugar (1).

Butter.—In these instances butter was asked for and a substance purporting to be butter was supplied and labelled 'Bradlac,' a name approved by the Board of Agriculture under Section 9 (1) of the Butter and Margarine Act, 1907, for mixtures of butter and milk or cream.

Demerara Sugar.—Demerara sugar was asked for and a dyed sugar known as 'Yellow Crystals' was supplied. The vendor was cautioned.

The following table shows the number of the various articles submitted for analysis, together with the results :—

Article.	Formal.			Informal.		
	Genuine	Adul- terated	Total.	Genuine	Adul- terated	Total.
Butter . . .	..	..	..	19	2	21
Cheese . . .	..	..	..	4	..	4
Demerara Sugar .	..	..	..	8	1	9
Margarine . . .	..	..	..	1	..	1
Milk . . .	13	..	13	..	..	..
Mustard . . .	..	..	..	1	..	1
Pepper . . .	..	..	..	4	..	4
Vinegar . . .	..	..	..	5	..	5
Totals .	13	..	13	42	3	45

James Evans, Esq., an Inspector of the Board of Agriculture, conferred with me on 28th November as to the working of these Acts in your district. After examining the

various books kept in connection with these Acts, he expressed himself satisfied with the way in which the duties were being carried out.

UNSOUND FOOD.

A large amount of slightly unsound fruit was voluntarily destroyed during the year, and vendors were several times required to sort fruit exposed for sale, but there were no bad cases.

No formal seizure of bad meat was made during the year. In a few cases the butchers asked the Inspector to examine meat before they exposed it for sale, and it was necessary to caution one vendor as to the quality.

A consignment of 120 mackerel was destroyed as being unfit for the food of man.

On November 26th Dr. Coutts, Local Government Board Inspector of Foods, came to Oxford, and with me visited the Meat Market and various slaughter-houses in your district.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, AND MILKSHOPS ORDERS.

The number of persons registered under the provisions of these Orders is 65. Their premises have been regularly inspected, and, with few exceptions, found satisfactory.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

The registered and licensed slaughter-houses within the City have been inspected frequently and found generally to be kept in accordance with the By-Laws.

One annual licence has been granted and three others renewed.

There are now 24 registered and four licensed slaughter-houses on the registers.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

The premises whereon offensive trades are carried on have been inspected several times during the year. In two instances the consent of the Council has been renewed under the Public Health Act, 1875, Section 112, to the carrying on of the trade of tripe boiling for a term of one year.

In one case it was necessary to call upon the owners to cleanse and limewash the walls of their premises, and in two cases, on my suggestion, sanitary dust-bins have been provided for the waste refuse, instead of old wooden boxes.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

Although the common lodging houses are kept in a fair condition generally, new By-Laws are required to obtain a higher standard called for, more especially as regards the accommodation in the married quarters, and also facilities for cleanliness, cubicles for the married, and separate closet accommodation for each sex, together with sufficient provisions for washing.

105 Inspections have been made during the year, including 3 night visits shortly before midnight.

There are in Oxford four registered common lodging houses, with a total of 25 rooms and registered to accommodate 79 lodgers.

HOUSES LET IN LODGINGS.

During the year it was resolved by the Council to apply the By-Laws to the following houses :—

27 Pembroke Street, St. Ebbe's.

35 Pembroke Street, St. Ebbe's.

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 9 Plasterer's Arms Yard,
St. Thomas'.

All the registered houses have been frequently inspected. 242 inspections have been made.

In one instance a notice served on the owners calling upon them to cleanse and limewash the rooms was readily complied with. At the close of the year a notice was served calling upon the owner to provide additional closet accommodation for several houses in one block.

There are now 20 houses let in lodgings registered.

CANAL BOATS ACTS.

In order to give effect to the provisions of the Canal Boats Acts and Regulations, 53 canal boats were inspected during the year and found to be in a satisfactory condition generally.

The infringements met with were as under :—

Registration	-	-	-	-	-	1
Marking	-	-	-	-	-	2
Without proper water vessel				-	-	4
Painting	-	-	-	-	-	1

With one exception, preliminary notices given in respect to these infringements were complied with. In this case it was necessary to resort to legal proceedings before the owner would mark his boat in conformity with the requirements of the Regulations. Defendant was fined 10/- and 8/- costs, and has since had his boat marked satisfactorily.

One case of infectious disease was notified, *viz.*, Erysipelas, and the patient was removed to the Workhouse Infirmary.

Accompanying the boats inspected were 54 men, 32 women and 24 children.

The ages of the children were as follows :—

<i>Girls.</i>	<i>Boys.</i>
Under 1 year - - 1	Under 1 year - - 2
1 to 5 years - - 3	1 to 5 years - - 6
5 to 10 years - - 3	5 to 10 years - - 4
10 to 12 years - - 0	10 to 14 years - - 5
—	—
7	17

The total number of boats now registered at Oxford is 18, and it may be mentioned that the inspections made include those of boats registered in other districts and plying in this district.

H.M. Inspector under the Canal Boats Acts (Owen J. Llewellyn, Esq.) visited Oxford on Monday, June 13th, for the purpose of making enquiries as to the carrying out of the Canal Boats Acts and Regulations in the City. He examined the register and Inspector's journal and expressed himself satisfied with the manner in which the requirements of the Acts and Regulations are carried out.

REMOVAL OF HOUSE REFUSE.

The arrangements made for the removal and disposal of house refuse remain practically the same as in previous years.

The number of loads collected show an increase of 1,014, the total number of loads being 15,656 against 14,642 of last year.

The highest number of loads recorded in any one day were 83, 77, 67 and 61 respectively, whilst the lowest were 40, 43, 45 and 47. It will thus be seen that the numbers vary considerably from time to time.

This year an addition was made to the Sanitary Dust-bins provided by the Council for the use of occupiers in yards.

There are now 18 bins belonging to the Corporation. These are greatly appreciated by all who have the privilege to use them.

At the early part of the year 8,596 notices were issued calling the attention of householders and occupiers to the Regulations as to the Removal of House Refuse, and also suggesting the consumption by fire of paper and other things with a view to reducing the bulk.

The question of providing additional shoots has been discussed by your Committee on several occasions, and it is hoped that extra provisions will shortly be made for the east and west portions of the City.

The following table gives the number of loads of house refuse and sweepings collected, together with the total during each month of the year.

It will be seen that on most occasions when the number of loads of house refuse is high, sweepings are also.

It is estimated that 182 houses have been built during the year.

Month.	House Refuse.	Sweepings.	Total.
January . . .	1,256	1,345	2,601
February . . .	1,291	1,062	2,353
March . . .	1,406	1,169	2,575
April . . .	1,164	*640	1,804
May . . .	1,211	716	1,927
June . . .	1,421	803	2,224
July . . .	1,246	771	2,017
August . . .	1,282	886	2,168
September . . .	1,273	974	2,247
October . . .	1,415	1,278	2,693
November . . .	1,346	1,281	2,627
December . . .	1,345	*1,683	3,028
Totals. .	15,656	12,608	28,264

* Not including Snow.

The annexed table shows the number of loads of house refuse and sweepings removed during the past 10 years. It will be seen that there is an increase of 8,905 loads, *viz.*, 3,751 house refuse and 5,154 sweepings.

Year.	Number of Loads removed.		
	House Refuse.	Sweepings or Mud.	Total.
1899	11,905	7,454	19,359
1900	12,474	8,520	20,994
1901	12,604	8,919	21,523
1902	12,905	8,923	21,828
1903	13,030	8,953	21,983
1904	13,224	10,220	23,444
1905	13,892	10,089	23,981
1906	14,087	10,337	24,424
1907	14,642	12,689	27,331
1908	15,656	12,608	28,264

The figures mentioned in the foregoing tables do not include the removal of snow.

STREET CLEANSING.

Street cleansing has been carried out on the same lines as before, special attention being given to the principal streets. It is at times difficult to cope with the mud, but it is considered advisable only to sweep up what can be carted away on the same day. On several occasions when the whole of the mud carts available were in use and the sweepers ceased work at 3 p.m., the carters were at work and did not return to the yard till between 6 and 7 in the evening.

In order to show how the work varies from time to time, I give the following facts.

On February 17th, 18th, and 19th, 140, 149, and 70 loads

were collected. On this occasion all the mud carts were in use. On the 17th the last cart returned to the yard at 6.35 and on the 18th at 7 p.m.

The number of loads collected from Carfax to Magdalen Bridge was 16 on the 17th and 12 on the 18th; from Carfax to Mill Street 14 loads were collected each day; from Hythe Bridge Street alone 8 loads were removed on the 17th and 10 loads on the 18th.

At other times 157, 152, 144, 142, 106 and 103 loads were swept up and removed from the streets. The lowest numbers returned were 15, 16, 17, 19 and 21 per day.

The total number of loads of sweepings and mud removed during the year was 12,608.

There are approximately 52 miles of streets in the City.

REMOVAL OF SNOW.

Snow fell on April 25th, and during the next few days 1,150 loads were removed from the streets. Snow also fell on December 29th, and 2,965 loads were afterwards removed. The extra cost of scavenging amounted to £102 and £242 respectively, and practically the whole of the staffs of the Highways, Drainage, and Sanitary Departments were at work on these occasions.

CLEANSING OF FOOTPATHS.

For the purpose of cleansing the foot pavements over bridges and other pavements for which the Corporation are responsible, three small trucks with hose and reels attached have been provided and 19 hydrants fixed. The paths have been regularly cleansed by the sweepers.

WATERING.

Street watering was commenced on the 17th April and continued to October 5th.

As in previous years the main thoroughfares were watered when necessary on Sundays, the vans being engaged during the season 15 days.

The question as to whether streets are to be watered is at times a difficult one to decide, owing to the sudden variations in the weather, but on the whole the work has been carried out satisfactorily.

DUST PREVENTION.

The City Engineer has furnished the following particulars :—

‘ The Highways Committee having purchased a tar-spraying machine, similar to that used on the roads by the “ Tarspra ” Company in 1907, and hired a portable engine for drawing it, early in the summer Iffley and Woodstock Roads and portion of the streets connecting with them were, after repeated sweepings, treated with one coat of hot “ refined ” tar, and later the centre portion of the carriageway in the two first-named roads received a second dressing.

On a short section of Woodstock Road a third coat was applied by way of experiment.

A few lengths of Botley Road and Park End Street were also treated, but with indifferent success.

The total area dealt with was 65,366 square yards, or $13\frac{1}{2}$ acres.

New carriageways of tar macadam were made in Holywell Street and Brasenose Lane, an area of 3,255 square yards.

“ Akonia ” and Calcium Chloride were applied by the water vans periodically throughout the summer months in High Street, Cowley Road, St. Clement’s, New Road, Park End Street, Botley Road, St. Aldate’s, Abingdon Road, Cornmarket and Magdalen Streets, St. Giles’ and Banbury Road.

The area so dealt with is 79,840 square yards.’

ISIS STREET YARD.

With reference to the inadequate accommodation for vans, carts, &c., mentioned in my report of last year, your Committee very carefully considered the matter, and recom-

mended to the Council on August 5th that the yard and premises adjoining and in the occupation of the Waterworks Department, be transferred to the Sanitary Department for the purpose of providing the necessary accommodation. The report was adopted, and it is hoped before the close of the present year possession will be obtained and the necessary works carried out in order to fit the yard for the required purpose.

The plant at the present time consists of :—

- 26 dust carts.
- 21 iron tumbler carts.
- 18 water vans.
- 4 street sweeping machines.
- 13 orderly trucks.
- 18 wheelbarrows.
- 5 handcarts.
- 2 snow ploughs.
- 3 hose trucks.

and there are 26 horses.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

The receipts from the public conveniences during the year amounted to £110 11s. 5d. as against £101 9s. 4d. last year. The particulars of the receipts are shown in the table :—

Convenience.	Lavatories.	W.C.'s.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
St. Giles' .		33 5 6	33 5 6
Rewley Road .	6 2 10	22 2 4	28 5 2
St. Clement's .	2 8 2	23 11 3	25 19 5
Blue Boar St. .		23 1 4	23 1 4
£	8 11 0	102 0 5	110 11 5

The underground conveniences have been open to the public as under :—

Rewley Road	{	Weekdays, 7 a.m. to 11.30 p.m.
St. Clement's	{	Sundays, 9 „ „ 10.30 „
St. Giles'	{	Weekdays, 6 „ „ 11.30 „
„	{	Sundays, 6 „ „ 10.30 „

Your Committee have considered the antiquated type of some of the public urinals, and those situate at Hythe Bridge and Pacey's Bridge will probably shortly be demolished.

Your Committee have also considered the question of providing public conveniences for women, and it has been decided to construct two, one on the Plain, St. Clement's, and the other at the east side of St. Mary Magdalen Churchyard. Works in connection with these are now in hand.

BATHING PLACES.

Owing to the floods the bathing places were not opened until May 18th. They were well attended during the whole of the season, and at times were overcrowded, especially the one at the Long Bridges for females, due no doubt to the facilities and encouragement given to juvenile bathers; and as the weather continued favourable and the attendance satisfactory, the bathing places remained open on weekdays from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sundays as usual until October 25th.

Times of Opening :—

Weekdays.

During May	from 6 a.m. to 8.0 p.m.
„ June and July	„ „ „ „ 8.30 „
„ August	„ „ „ „ 8.0 „
„ September	„ „ „ „ 7.0 „

Sundays.

Tumbling Bay	from 6 a.m. to 12 noon.
Long Bridges (Males)	„ „ „ „ 12 „
„ „ (Females)	„ „ „ „ 10 a.m.
St. Ebbe's	„ „ „ „ „ „

On Mondays and Wednesdays from 3 to 5 p.m., and all day on Fridays, Tumbling Bay Bathing Place was reserved for the use of females.

The Summerfields Bathing Place was again open to residents of Summertown and district by kind permission of Dr. Williams, from August 3rd to September 19th inclusive.

Weekdays, from 7 to 10 a.m., and from 5 to 8 p.m.

Sundays, „ 7 „ 10 „

I need hardly say the bathers very much appreciated Dr. Williams' kindness.

FREE FERRY.

For the purpose of reference the following times of opening are reprinted :—

During January	from 9 a.m. to 5.0 p.m.
„ February	„ „ „ „ 5.30 „
„ March	„ „ „ „ 7.0 „
„ April	„ 7 „ „ 8.0 „
„ May	„ 6 a.m. „ 8.30 „
„ June	„ „ „ „ 9.15 „
„ July	„ „ „ „ 9.15 „
„ August	„ „ „ „ 8.30 „
„ September	„ „ „ „ 7.30 „
„ October	„ 7 a.m. „ 6.0 „
„ November	„ 9 „ „ 5.0 „
„ December	„ „ „ „ 5.0 „

The ferry and path leading thereto were closed on November 9th in order to prevent any claim as a public right-of-way.

DISINFECTION OF PREMISES, &c.

During the year 543 rooms were disinfected, and the following articles removed for the purpose of being disinfected by means of the steam disinfector at the City Hospital :—

Beds and mattresses	-	-	-	229
Pillows and bolsters	-	-	-	321
Blankets	-	-	-	259
Carpets	-	-	-	40
Articles of clothing, &c.	-	-	-	703
				<hr/>
				1552
				<hr/>

The cleansing and disinfection of the surfaces of the yards, courts and passages, which has been so much appreciated, and has also encouraged the occupiers and taught them the necessity of cleanliness, was carried out at intervals during the summer months. Many of the entrance passages have been cleansed and limewashed by the owners.

PREVENTION OF CONSUMPTION.

In 40 instances offers were made to disinfect rooms free of charge, with the result that 51 rooms and in some cases the bedding were disinfected.

CATTLE MARKET.

To meet the requirements of the Board of Agriculture the cleansing and disinfecting has been regularly done after each market. The work has been satisfactorily carried out by the staff of the Sanitary Department.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

THOS. J. HULL,

Sanitary Inspector.

